cahkâpêš nêsta mâka maskwak

ašay manâ mîna pêyakwâ cahkâpêš, pêyakwâ ê-kišêpâyânik kihtohtêw. pîniš manâ wâhnaw ê-ihtât ê-kospâmaciwêt wacîniw kâ-išpânik. êkâ wîskât kâ-kî-ohc'-îtohtêt pwâmošiy anima, êkwênâk mâk' ant' ê-ytohtêt.

môna ohci-wîhtamawêw omisa anima ant' ê-ytohtêt,

ê-ispîhci-wâhnaw-itohtêt ê-tahkotâmaciwêt mâškôc êkâ ê-'šinâkwahk anima 'ci-tôtahkipan. šâkoc mâka k'-îtohtêw.

2 âšay manâ ê-pimohtêt, kêka manâ wâpahtam ê-'miskanawên'ci awiyâšîša ê-'mâtâhamin'ci.¹

êko mâk' ê-'miskanawên'ci 'wiyâšîša ê-mamahkiškamin'ci.

môna ohci-kiskên'tam kêko awiyâšîša.

âšay manâ mâka ê-'tiy-otâkošihk, âšay mâmitonên'tam ê-wî-kîwêt. âšay manâ kîwêw.

êko manâ mâka ispî kâ-takošihk wîkihk, tipâcimostawêw manâ omisa:

"n'k'-îtohtân nêtê kâ-iš'-îšpâk waciy," manâ itêw. "êko mâka n'kî-mâtah...,²
n'kî-wâpahtên ê-pimatahahkik awiyâšîšak, nêsta mâk' ê-'miskanawêcik
ê-mâmahkiškahkik," manâ itwêw.

"šâ-â mân' isa³ kâ-itohtêyin antê," manâ itik' ômisa.⁴ "môna wîskâc ..., môna wîskâc ka-itohtâhtay antê. êwakwânik' oš' âni kâ-kî-kitimahitahkok, kâ-kî-nipahâcik kinîkihikonawa."

'kwân' êtât.

- "hê, nimiš," manâ itêw. môna tâpwê, -
 - "'kâwina mîna wîskât antê ytohtê," manâ itêw.

"hê, nimiš," manâ itêw.

môna tâpwê ohc'-îtên'tam animêniw cahkâpêš kâ-itwêt. 'kwantaw piko ê-wî-nahênawêhât omisa.

- "'môna mîna ta-ytohtêw,' n'ka-ytênimik iko," ê-ytên'tahk.
- êko, wiyâpaninik, êko kâ-ošihât akaskwa nâspic ê-mamâhtâwên'tâkosin'ci ê-itwâsot. êko kâ-..., êko kâ-..., kâ-..., iskani-kîšik kî-tašinawîw.⁵

êko mâka, môna ohci-kiskênimik' ômisa kêkwân wêhci-tôtahk anima.⁶ k'-îtênimikow piko, êy-ošihât otakaskwa.

šâkoc mâka wîna, wîna kî-kiskên'tam kêkwân wêhci-tôtahk. ê'kwân' ê-w'-îtohtêt mîn' anta kâ-k'-îši-... [pause], -mâtâhât awiyâšîša. êko kâ-..., êko kâ-..., kâ-kâtawât omis' ânimêniw, êkâ ê-wîhtamawât.

Chahkabesh and the bears

Now then once again Chahkabesh, one morning off he went.

At last when he was far away he climbed up a high hill. He had never gone there before that, it being the first time he had gone there.

He did not tell his older sister that time that he was going there, since he was going so far to get to the top of the hill that it probably didn't look as though he would to it. Nonetheless off he went.

Now then, as he walked along, at last he saw it, an animal making tracks as it went over the ridge.

So then, the animal was making tracks with large footprints.

He didn't know which animal.

But now as evening drew on, he now reflected that he wanted to go home. Now then he went home.

So then when he had arrived at his home, he told his older sister about it: "I went yonder where there is a high hill," he said to her. "And then I spotted the tr... I saw animals going over the ridge, – and also making tracks with large footprints," he said.

"Oh, my! What did you go there for?" his older sister said to him. "You should never, never go there! They are the very ones, you realize, who caused us misery, who killed our parents."

That's what she told him.

4 "Right, Big Shishter," he said to her. Not seriously, -

"Don't ever go there again," she said to him.

"Right, Big Shishter," he said.

Chahkabesh didn't mean seriously what he said. He just said it casually because he wanted to please his older sister.

"She'll just think, 'He won't go there again,' " he thought.

Then, the next morning, then he made an arrow which would do marvellous things, as he thought. Then did ..., then did ..., did ... he busied himself all day.

However, his older sister did not know why he was doing that. She only thought that he was making his arrows.

But he, he certainly knew why he was doing it. It was because he wanted to go again to where [pause] ..., he had come upon the tracks of the animals. So he, so he, he hid that from his sister and did not tell her.

6 êko mâka ê-wî-kišêpâyânik, âšay kihtohtêw.

êko mâka, ispî wêhtihtahk nêtê mîna kâ-k'îši-'miskanawên'ci awiyâšîša, wacîhk kâ-kistatahamin'ci, êko, pwâmošiy anima, pitamâ kî-kakwêcihêw otakaskwa ânêspî..., tân' êspihtên'tâkosin'ci,⁷ ê-piskosêkânik kî-pimotam.⁸

miconi mâka kî-pîši-wêpaham.

"'kwâni mâka, n'cakask," itêw.

7 êko kâ-..., êko mâka, ispî kâ-otihtahk animêniw mêskanâniw kâ-'ši-mâtahât awiyâsîša, êko kâ-têpwêt.

êko kâ-matê-ohci-...,9 -matê-ohci-wanawîyâhtawîcik maskwak. pîniš mihcêt.

êko kâ-kâsot anta. kî-kâsostawêw ê-pêci-nôkosin'ci.

kîy-ayamihêw mâk' otakaskwa: " 'yâkwâmisî êko, n'cakask." $^{10}\,$

êko, ispî pêcina..., pêci-pêšinâkosin'ci, êko kâ-pimotât.

'kwâni piko iyê..., 'kwâni piko k'-ât'-îšinâkosin'ci otakaskwa, ê-'ti-tâhtâhkišinin'ci piko, ê-yšinâkosin'ci misiwê pêhpêyak anihi maskwa, kî-..., kî-kâwahwêw¹¹ misiwê.

êko kâ-'škwâ-nipahât misiwê, êko kâ-n'tawâpamât.

misiwê kî-pakocênêw, ê-n'tôšwât onîkihikwa.

môna kêkwâniw anta ohci-miskam.

êko mâka kâ-kîwêt.

8 êko mîna kâ-wîhtamawât omisa ant' ê-kihtohtêt. êko kâ-itikot: "tâpêkâ 'kâwina mîn' êtoht' ê-'t'tâpân," 12 itêw. êko mâka, "hê, nimiš."

"'kâwina mîna wîskâc itohtê 'ntê," itêw. "êwakwânik' aniki kâ-kî-kitimahikot..., -kitimahitahkok wâsa k'-îtitihtay."

"âta oš' âna, n'kî-pakocênâwak misiwê; môna 'wênihkân mâka ihtâw anta, – môna 'wênihkânak anta k'-îhtâwak kinîkihikonawak."

êko, k'-âyamihikot omisa, êkâ mîna wîskâc anima 'ci-tôtahk.

êko pêyakwâ ê-'ti-otâkošihk mîna, ê-'yapicik, nâspic ê-min'-otâkošihk, pîniš ê-'ti-tipiskâk kî-kîšikâstêw mâka. mwêhci kî-wâwiyêsiw wayêš pîsim anima ê-kîš..., ê-tipiskânik.

êko mîna kâ-mâmitonên'tahk kêkwâniw ê-wî-tôtahk animêniw. êko kâ-itât omisa, "n'ka-nâtahâkonân."

êko, wênawît.

So then, as it was about to be morning, he now went away.

So then, once he had reached the place again where the animals had made tracks, when they had packed down a trail on the mountain, then before carrying out his plan, he made trial of his arrow, to see how gr..., how strong it was. He shot at a mound of stones.

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends

and Narratives from the West Coast of James Bay" (1995)

He shattered it in pieces.

"Right, then, my arrow," he said to it.

So wh..., and so, when he had reached that path where he picked up the tracks of the animals, then he shouted.

Then from away off came ..., from away off bears came crawling out.

At last there were many.

So he hid there. He hid from them as they came into sight.

He spoke to his arrow, though: "Be careful, my awwow."

Then, when they drew ne..., drew near, then he shot at them.

And then just ..., then his arrow just appeared as if it were just skipping along, the way it looked, one by one on each of those bears. He, he knocked them all down.

So after he had killed them all, then he went after them.

He gutted them all, searching for his parents.

He found nothing there.

So then he returned home.

Then again he told his sister that he was going away there.

So she said to him: "Seriously, as I was saying to you, don't go there again," she said to him.

So he said to her, "Right, Big Shishter."

"Don't ever again go there," she said to him. "Those are the ones who were caused sor..., caused us sorrow, as in fact I used to tell you."

"Nonetheless, I cleaned all of them out; but no one was there, - none of our parents was there."

Then his older sister spoke to him, that he should never do that again.

So one evening as they were sitting around, since it was a very fine evening, – at last as it began to get dark it was brilliant moonlight. The moon was just about perfectly round that da..., night.

So again he considered what it was that he wanted to do.

Then he said to his older sister, "I'll go to get some snow."

So, out he went.

"Don't look at the moon. He'll take you, he'll draw you," said his

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"'kâwina kanawâpam tipiski-pîsim. ka-otinik, ka-ocipitik," itik' ômisa. "hê, nimiš," itêw.

môna ohc'-îtên'tam tâpwê animêniw kâ-itwêt. piko têpinâhk 'ci-..., ê-nahînawêhât omisa ê-'yamihikot. môna wîskât ohci-itên'tam, "tâpwê ôma n'ka-tôtên kâ-išit nimis, 'c'-îtên'tahk." pîtoš k'-îspaniniw omitonên'cikan, kâ-išiy-ayamihikot omisa.

šâkoc mâka k'-îtêw, "hê, nimiš."

10 êko êti-wanawît, ê-tahkonât otaskihkwa.

êko mâka, ispî mâka ê-kwâhkwâpahwât kôna, kî-kanawâpamêw tipiski-pîsimwa, kinwêš.

kêka mâka kî-ocipitikow.

êwakwâna kâ-wâpamêk ê-matê-tahkonât otaskihkwa anohc. môna wîskâc ohci-pêci-kîwêw anta ohci.

ê'kwâni pi..., ¹³ ê'kwân' ê-kî-..., ê'kwân' ê-kišipipaninik otipâcimikosîwin. ê'kwâni.

âšay n'kîšihtân cahkâpêš tipâcimôwin mâhcic ê-'tâcimikosit.14

Excerpt from "âtalôhkâna nêsta tipâcimôwina / Cree Legends and Narratives from the West Coast of James Bay" (1995)

Text Five

older sister.

"Right, Big Shishter," he said.

He didn't really mean seriously what he said. Just as long as to ..., as he was pleasing his older sister who spoke to him. He never thought, "I'll really do what my big sister said to me so she'll be satisfied." His mind changed about what his sister had told him.

But he said to her, "Right, Big Shishter."

O So he started to go out, holding on to his pail.

And then, when he was scooping up snow, he looked at the moon, a long time.

And finally, it drew him up.

He is the actual one you can make out holding his pail now. He never came back from there.

That's the only ..., that was ..., that's the end of the tale about him. That's it.

Now I'm at the end of the last story told about Chahkabesh.